



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

June 28, 2000

HSE-5J

VIA FAX AND U.S. MAIL

4700

Mr. William A. Alter
The Alter Group
7303 N. Cicero Avenue
Lincolnwood, IL 60712

Re: Walkover Survey of Vacant Lot 4XX Ohio Street

Dear Mr. Alter:

On Wednesday, June 21, 2000, Mary Fulghum, Associate Regional Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, telephoned you and explained that U.S. EPA is seeking access your vacant lot located in the 400 block of Ohio Street in downtown Chicago. Ms. Fulghum explained that as part of its investigation of the disposal of radioactive material from the Lindsay Light and Chemical Company (Lindsay Light) thorium mantle manufacturing plant at 316 E. Illinois, U.S. EPA was conducting radiological surveys of certain properties in the area. During your conversation with Ms. Fulghum, you indicated your willingness to authorize U.S. EPA to conduct a radiation walkover survey of the vacant lot property located at the 400 block of Ohio Street which is fenced, gated and locked. We anticipate that a walkover survey would take no more than four to six hours. Enclosed with this letter is a form allowing U.S. EPA access to conduct a walkover radiation survey of the vacant lot.

As you may have learned from recent newspaper articles or from one of U.S. EPA's Lindsay Light Fact Sheets, from 1915 until approximately 1932, Lindsay Light refined thorium containing ores and manufactured incandescent mantles for residential and commercial building lights at 316 E. Illinois. The gas mantle manufacturing involved dipping gauze mantle bags into solutions containing radioactive thorium. This former manufacturing site that is bounded by Columbus, Grand, McClurg Court, and Illinois is known as the Lindsay Light II site. (It is called Lindsay Light II because the original facility and main offices were located at 161 East Grand.) Presently, Kerr-McGee Chemical L.L.C., River East L.L.C. and Grand Pier L.L.C. are completing a removal actions at the Lindsay Light II site pursuant to an U.S. EPA administrative order issued under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA" or more commonly known as "Superfund").

U.S. EPA believes it is possible that radioactive materials from the Lindsay Light operations or demolition may have been placed onto your property. Asphalt and concrete effectively shield the gamma radiation from this material but once the asphalt and concrete is removed during development activities there may be a potential threat to human health and the environment. During your phone conversation with Mary Fulghum, you mentioned that an environmental assessment of the vacant lot property recently was conducted. It would be very helpful to U.S. EPA if you could provide a copy of that environmental assessment, whether or not it includes a radiological assessment, because it will add to our understanding of the area. Also, any geotechnical boring information would also be helpful to our investigation.

The enclosed consent for access provides U.S. EPA and its representatives access to your property to conduct radiation surveillance and sampling. Please sign this consent for access and return it to us as soon as possible. Note that this consent is for access for a radiation walkover and sampling purposes only. If access is required for other purposes, a broader access agreement will be necessary. Also, because the property is gated and locked, we will need to coordinate with the Alter Group to open the gate to allow us access and lock it after we have finished.

Please contact either myself at (312) 886-5123 or Verneta Simon, On-Scene Coordinator at (312) 886-3601, if there is additional information we can provide to you. Please direct legal matters to Mary Fulghum, Associate Regional Counsel, at (312) 886-4683. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,



Fredrick A. Micke, P.E.
On-Scene Coordinator
EEB Section #3

Enclosure

CONSENT FOR ACCESS TO PROPERTY

Name: William A. Alter, President
The Alter Group
7303 North Cicero Avenue
Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712

Address of Property: Vacant Lot
4XX Block Ohio Street
Chicago, Illinois

I consent to officers, employees, contractors, and authorized representatives of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) entering and having continued access to this property to conduct a walkover radiation survey, and sampling on the property.

I realize that these actions taken by U.S. EPA are undertaken pursuant to its response and enforcement responsibilities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601-9601-9675 (1997).

This written permission is given by me voluntarily, on behalf of myself and all other co-owners of this property, with knowledge of my right to refuse and without threats or promises of any kind.

Date

William A. Alter, President

bcc: Mary Fulghum, ORC
Jose DeLeon, ORC
Verneta Simon, OSC
Larry Jensen, Radiation Specialist
Debbie Regal, Enforcement Specialist